

2003 VERMONT WILDLIFE HARVEST REPORT

White-tailed Deer



VERMONT
FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
(802) 241-3700 / www.vtfishandwildlife.com



2003 VERMONT WILDLIFE HARVEST REPORT

Most of the programs described in this report are funded through the **Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program**. This program initiated in 1937 as the Federal Aid In Wildlife Act and created a system where by taxes are paid on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment by the public who hunts. Today this excise tax generates over a hundred million dollars each year that are dedicated to state wildlife restoration and management projects across the United States. The State of Vermont use these monies for acquiring land, and for restoring and managing wildlife. These excise tax dollars, coupled with state hunting license fees have been the predominate source of money funding the successful restoration and management of Vermont's wildlife resources.



Protecting the integrity, diversity and vitality of Vermont's fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

Agency of Natural Resources

103 South Main Street, 10 South
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0501

(802) 241-3700 / www.vtfishandwildlife.com

Contents

2003 White-tailed Deer Report	3
Overview of Hunting Seasons and Biological Analysis	3-5
Vermont White-tailed Deer Wildlife Management Units	6
2003 Legal Deer Harvest by Wildlife Management Unit and Season	7
2003 Legal Deer Harvest by Season, County and Town	8-12
Hunter Harvested Bucks Weighing 200 Pounds or Greater	13-14
Frequency of 2003 Antlerless Permit Application Distribution	14
2003 Black Bear Report	15
Public Education and Outreach	16
Regulated Harvest & Utilization	16
Harvest Distribution	17
Vermont Black Bear Wildlife Management Units	18
Research and Surveys	18
2003 Legal Black Bear Harvest by Wildlife Management Unit, Town and Sex	19-23
2003 Moose Report	24
Biological Data	25
Moose Seen Per Hour Scouted	26
Vermont Moose Wildlife Management Units	27
2003 Legal Moose Harvest Data—Males Only	28-31
2003 Legal Moose Harvest Data—Females and Calves Only	32-34
2003 Wild Turkey Report	35
2003 Legal Spring Turkey Harvest by Town and Residency	36-39
2003 Spring Turkey Harvest by Wildlife Management Unit	36
Vermont Wild Turkey Wildlife Management Units	40
Fall Turkey Season	41
2003 Legal Fall Turkey Harvest by Town and Method	41-43
2003 Fall Turkey Harvest by Wildlife Management Unit	43
Notable Weights of Vermont’s Harvested Big Game Wildlife	44

2003 White-tailed Deer Report

Overview of Hunting Seasons and Biological Analysis

The winter of 2003 was the second severe winter in the last three years and was directly related to the decline in Vermont's overall deer harvest for 2003. Further compounding the anticipated harvest decline was the lack of important fall foods such as beechnuts, acorns and apples. Despite these obstacles to an abundant harvest, archery and youth season totals were 12% and 7%, respectively, greater than 2002. The muzzleloader season total was down 28%, largely due to the 24% decrease in antlerless permits. The rifle deer season experienced the greatest difference (-21%) and accounts for most of the 13% decrease in total deer harvest between 2002 and 2003.

Hunters harvested a total of 14,528 deer in 2003. Rifle season hunters harvested 47% of that total while archery (27%), youth (11%), and muzzleloader hunters (15%) comprised the balance (Figure 1). Bucks having antlers three inches or longer made up 63% of the total harvest in 2003 (Figure 2). This compares with 67% of the 2002 harvest.

Results of the 2003 seasons are listed by wildlife management unit (WMU) and by town in Tables 1 and 2 at the end of this report.

Of the 12,499 licensed hunters who harvested at least one deer, 88% took one deer, 10% two deer, and 2% three deer. Based on an estimated 87,000 licensed hunters, 86% did not harvest a deer.

The total buck harvest of 9,194 is 21% less than the harvest objective (Figure 6) and similar to the buck harvest of 2001 when the winter severity was also high. Buck harvests for individual WMU's ranged between 33% greater and 58% less than their respective harvest objectives (Figure 7).

Biologists examined 709 bucks at 17 different check stations during the first weekend of the rifle season. This was 28% fewer deer than in 2002 and consistent with the rifle season harvest of 2003. Data analysis resulted in a mean antler beam diameter for yearling (1 1/2 year old) bucks of 16.5 millimeters. Their mean number of points was 2.9 and their dressed weight (all internal organs removed) was 114.1 pounds. These results indicate the deer herd entered the stressful wintering period in excellent condition.

Based on tooth wear and replacement patterns, the age distribution of the bucks were 66%- 1 1/2 year olds, 19%- 2 1/2 year olds, 11%- 3 1/2 year olds, and 4%- 4 1/2 years or older (Table 3). This age distribution has a higher proportion of 1 1/2 year olds than in most years. Usually the percentage of yearlings ranges between 50% and 60%. When the yearling frequency is high it is often related to a mild winter and high fawn survival. The reasons for 2003 being as high as it is are unknown but could be related to high fawn survival, the prevailing hunting conditions, or a sampling problem.



John Hall

14,528 DEER HARVESTED

2003 HARVEST TOTALS BY SEASON

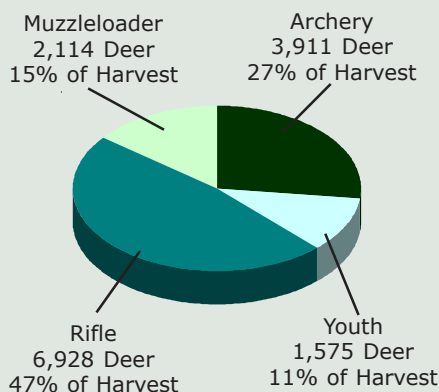


Figure 1

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF HARVEST

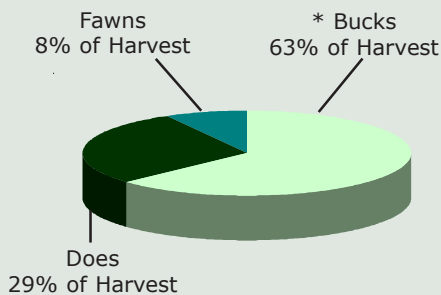


Figure 2

Archery Season October 4-26 and December 6-14, 2003

Of the 14,528 deer harvested, 3,911 were harvested during the split four-week archery season. Bucks with three-inch or longer antlers made up 31% of the harvest and does and fawns made up 55% and 14%, respectively (Figure 3). Of the estimated 30,000 archers, 11% harvested one deer and 1% harvested two deer. Among successful archery hunters 89% harvested one deer and 11% harvested two deer. Bucks comprised 31% of the first deer harvested but only 23% of the second deer. Hunters harvested 206 deer in the December portion of the archery season. For 116 hunters that portion of the harvest was their first deer harvested.

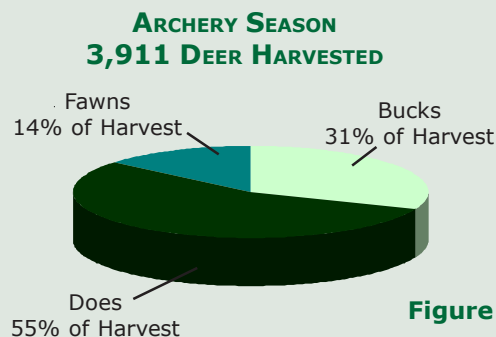


Figure 3

Youth Season November 8 and 9, 2003

Hunters under the age of 16 took to the field for the second year of a hunt expanded to both weekend days. Despite little snow and extremely cold temperatures youths harvested 1,575 deer. This represents a 7% increase from the 2002 harvest of 1,474 deer. This year's harvest represents 11% of the total 2003 deer harvest. The composition of the harvest remained similar to that of previous youth seasons and was distributed as 27% bucks with three-inch or longer antlers, 48% does and 25% fawns (Figure 4).

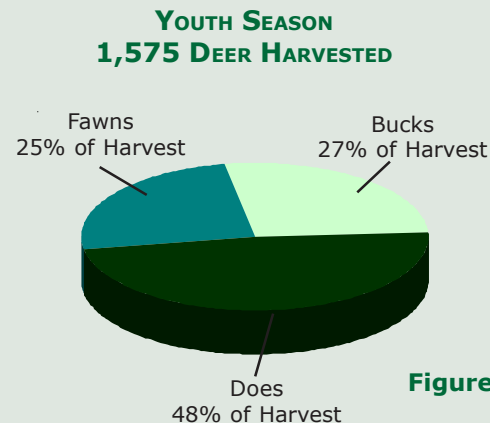


Figure 4

Rifle Season November 15 – November 30, 2003

A good snowfall greeted hunters for the opening weekend of the rifle deer season. Despite reasonably good hunting conditions for these two days the harvest was down 27% from 2002. Losses due to the severe winter of 2003 were apparent at 15 of the 17 biological check stations. Southern stations reported the greatest differences. A warming trend during the middle of the season diminished the effect of the early season snowfall. Thanksgiving weekend began cold and clear and moderated on the final day when good tracking snow was once again available.

Hunters harvested a total of 6,928 bucks during the 16-day season. This season's harvest represents a total that was 21% less than in 2002. Of that total, 88% of the deer were a hunter's first deer taken that year. Harvest during the first two days of the season accounted for 42% of the rifle season total.

Results of the 2003 hunter effort survey indicated there was relatively high hunting pressure during opening weekend and modest pressure on the following two weekends. Weekday hunting pressure was about 55% of what occurred on opening weekend.

Muzzleloader Season December 7 – 15, 2003

Hunting conditions were good to excellent during the final deer season of the year. Due to the 24% decrease in antlerless permits from 2002, the muzzleloader harvest was expected to be lower than the previous year. The harvest of 2,114 fell in line with that expectation. The composition of the muzzleloader season was 31% bucks with three-inch or longer antlers, 59% does and 10% fawns (Figure 5). Antlerless permit applications were received from 17,847 applicants for the 7,485 authorized permits (Table 5).

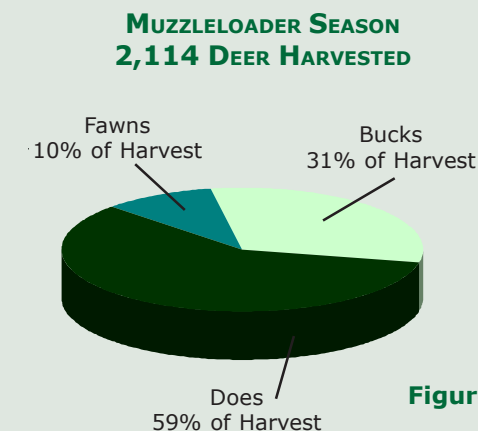


Figure 5

Summary

This was the third consecutive year the statewide buck harvest has been below the management plan's objective, due primarily to the severity of the winters in 2001 and 2003. Concern for a decreasing deer population as well as for a relatively low frequency of older aged bucks has been expressed by increasing numbers of hunters. Recognizing hunter sentiment, the department is exploring having experimental WMUs where hunting regulations would be changed to decrease the mortality on young (1.5 year old) bucks. This approach is being labeled Comprehensive Deer Management (CDM). The earliest any change in hunting regulations would take effect would be 2005.

FIGURE 6. STATEWIDE BUCK HARVEST 1993 - 2003

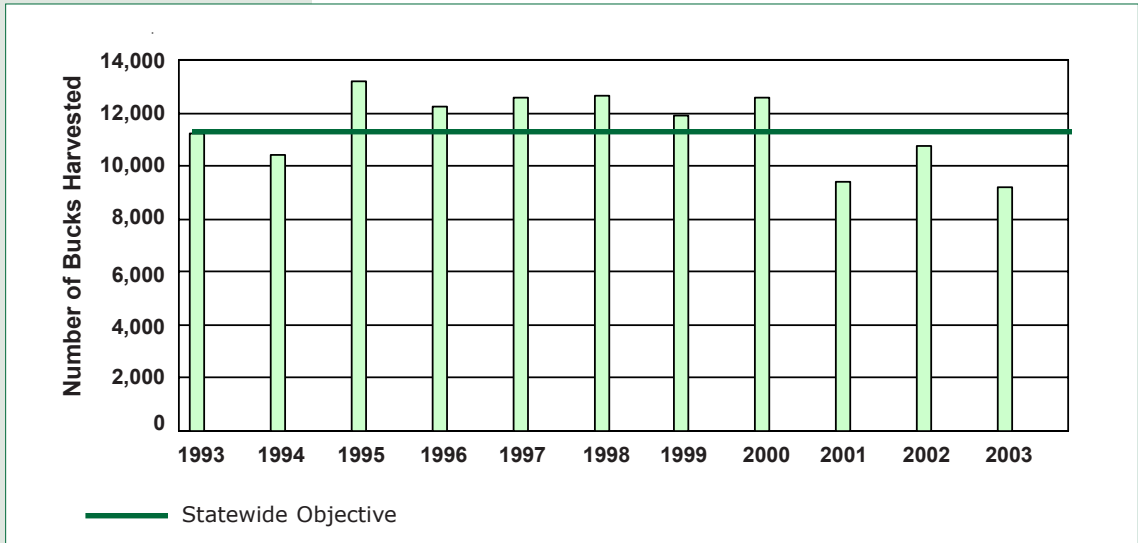
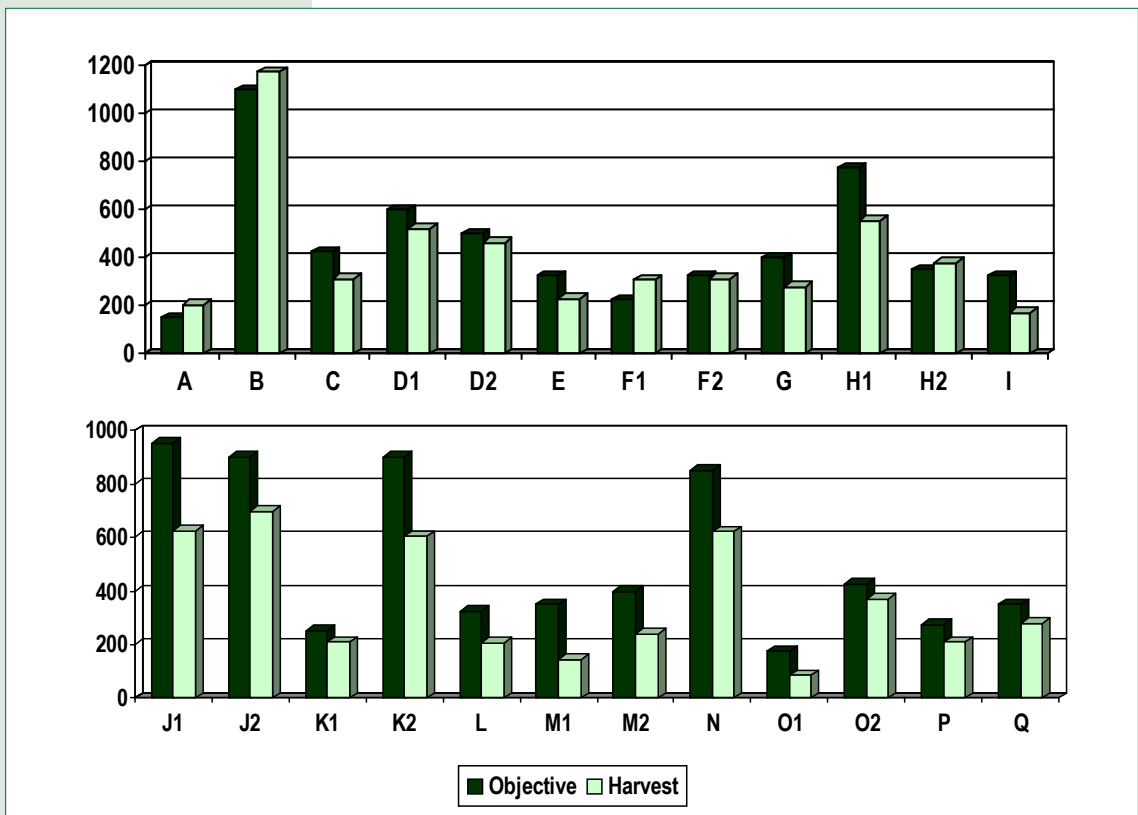
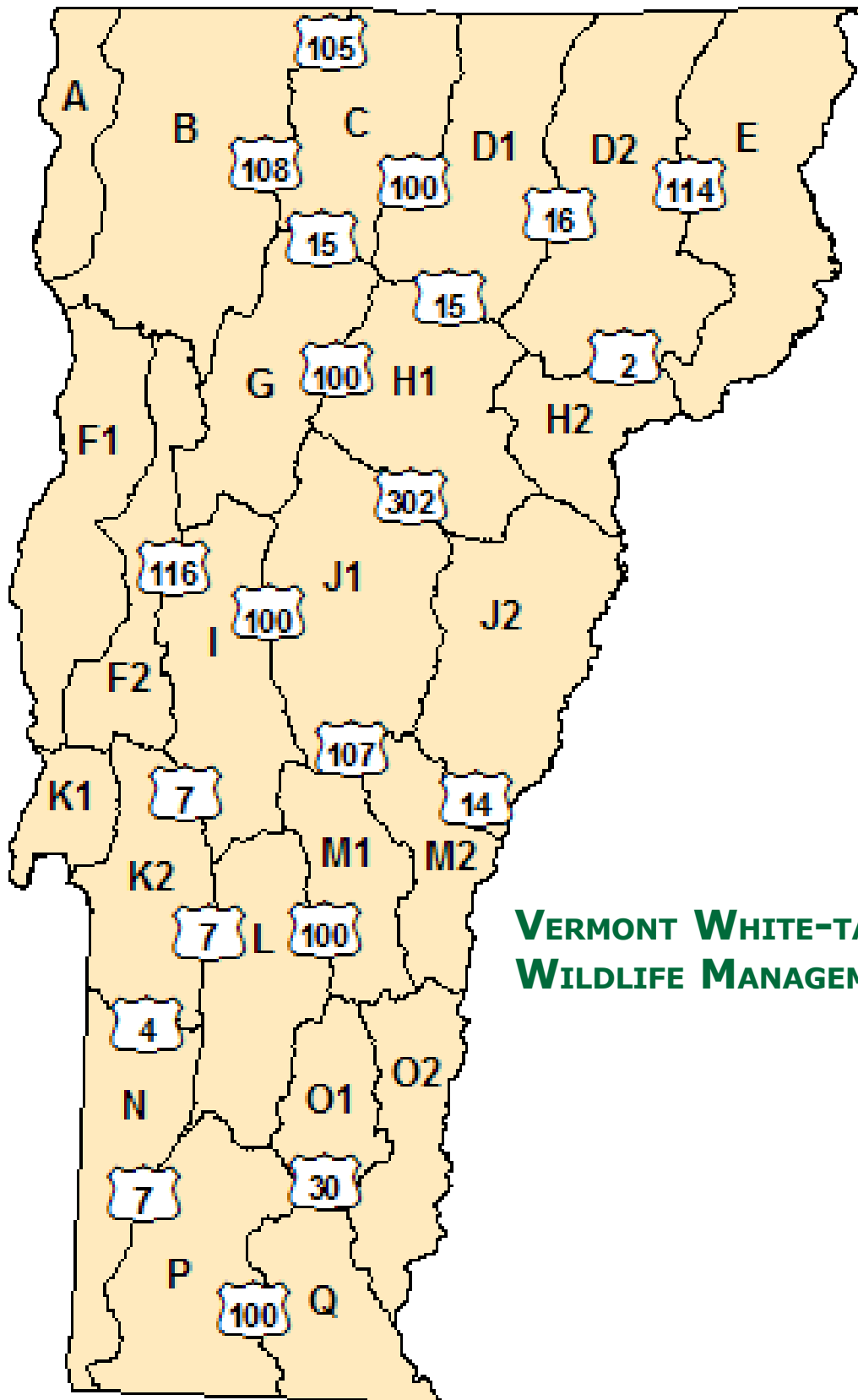


FIGURE 7. BUCK HARVEST AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE FOR EACH WMU





**VERMONT WHITE-TAILED DEER
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNITS**

TABLE 1. 2003 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT AND SEASON

WMU	Archery Buck*	Archery Antlerless**	Youth Buck	Youth Antlerless	Rifle Buck	Rifle Harvest/ Mile ²	Muzzle-loader Buck	Muzzle-loader Antlerless	Total Bucks	Buck/ Sq. Mi.	Total Deer	Deer/ Mile ²
A	22	54	15	29	153	3.4	13	95	203	4.5	381	8.4
B	212	428	57	172	837	1.6	68	335	1,174	2.3	2,109	4.1
C	45	113	19	40	218	0.6	29	0	311	0.9	464	1.3
D1	117	157	28	87	344	0.9	29	0	518	1.4	762	2.0
D2	63	112	31	76	317	0.6	50	0	461	0.8	649	1.2
E	12	43	6	13	176	0.3	35	0	229	0.4	285	0.5
F1	41	89	13	43	234	1.1	20	61	308	1.4	501	2.3
F2	34	111	17	50	224	1.0	35	188	310	1.4	659	3.0
G	30	99	6	34	227	0.6	18	0	281	0.8	414	1.1
H1	92	195	21	64	390	1.0	51	54	554	1.4	867	2.2
H2	48	126	20	48	300	1.7	13	22	381	2.1	577	3.2
I	16	42	4	18	136	0.3	15	0	171	0.4	231	0.6
J1	88	202	31	71	466	0.9	37	92	622	1.3	987	2.0
J2	65	181	26	82	558	1.2	50	131	699	1.5	1,093	2.3
K1	24	42	19	29	159	1.6	8	0	210	2.1	281	2.9
K2	63	178	24	90	460	1.6	57	80	604	2.1	952	3.3
L	14	56	10	23	163	0.5	18	0	205	0.6	284	0.8
M1	11	29	8	8	115	0.5	10	0	144	0.6	181	0.8
M2	26	81	18	45	185	0.9	13	69	242	1.1	437	2.1
N	77	147	26	78	485	1.6	33	144	621	2.1	990	3.3
O1	5	10	1	5	75	0.4	4	0	85	0.4	100	0.5
O2	46	104	12	31	287	1.1	24	111	369	1.4	615	2.3
P	10	48	2	8	179	0.4	18	0	209	0.5	265	0.6
Q	27	75	5	10	236	0.9	11	42	279	1.0	406	1.5
Unk	0	1	0	2	4		0	31	4		38	
TOTALS*	1,188	2,723	419	1,156	6,928	0.9	659	1,455	9,194	1.2	14,528	1.8

*A Buck is a deer with at least one antler three inches long or longer.

**An Antlerless deer is a female deer or a male deer with antlers less than three inches long.

TABLE 2. 2003 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY SEASON, COUNTY AND TOWN

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Bucks/mi2	Muzzleloader	Deer Harvest	Deer/mi2
ADDISON	ADDISON	7	4	20	0.80	9	40	1.60
	BRIDPORT	4	2	18	0.70	5	29	1.13
	BRISTOL	3	3	11	0.31	14	31	0.87
	CORNWALL	10	10	22	1.21	20	62	3.41
	FERRISBURG	30	10	55	1.83	21	116	3.87
	GOSHEN	1	0	2	0.09	1	4	0.19
	GRANVILLE	0	0	5	0.10	1	6	0.12
	HANCOCK	0	0	4	0.11	0	4	0.11
	LEICESTER	6	9	15	0.78	8	38	1.98
	LINCOLN	3	0	20	0.52	2	25	0.65
	MIDDLEBURY	18	12	32	1.45	26	88	3.98
	MONKTON	15	5	36	1.14	16	72	2.28
	NEW HAVEN	16	16	52	2.15	44	128	5.29
	ORWELL	16	13	48	1.57	7	84	2.75
	PANTON	5	1	9	0.96	1	16	1.70
	RIPTON	3	0	14	0.30	2	19	0.40
	SALISBURY	8	4	13	0.68	9	34	1.79
	SHOREHAM	4	14	19	0.67	7	44	1.56
	STARKSBORO	19	5	36	0.90	10	70	1.76
	VERGENNES	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
	WALTHAM	3	0	9	1.80	6	18	3.60
WEYBRIDGE	4	5	9	0.94	8	26	2.71	
WHITING	4	2	8	0.64	6	20	1.60	
TOTAL ADDISON COUNTY		179	115	457	0.78	223	974	1.67
BENNINGTON	ARLINGTON	20	14	72	1.85	10	116	2.97
	BENNINGTON	49	11	80	2.63	24	164	5.39
	DORSET	6	3	39	0.92	21	69	1.62
	GLASTENBURY	1	0	7	0.16	1	9	0.21
	LANDGROVE	1	1	2	0.24	0	4	0.48
	MANCHESTER	10	2	20	0.55	5	37	1.01
	PERU	0	0	11	0.30	0	11	0.30
	POWNAI	46	25	83	1.88	38	192	4.34
	READSBORO	0	0	4	0.12	1	5	0.16
	RUPERT	26	13	61	1.47	26	126	3.03
	SANDGATE	20	12	51	1.29	4	87	2.20
	SEARSBURG	1	0	5	0.26	0	6	0.31
	SHAFTSBURY	52	14	84	2.16	21	171	4.41
	STAMFORD	2	0	13	0.32	1	16	0.40
	SUNDERLAND	6	2	19	0.43	4	31	0.71
	WINHALL	2	0	5	0.12	1	8	0.20
	WOODFORD	5	0	16	0.35	0	21	0.46
TOTAL BENNINGTON COUNTY		247	97	572	0.92	157	1,073	1.72
CALEDONIA	BARNET	29	11	52	1.52	5	97	2.84
	BURKE	10	1	21	0.85	0	32	1.29
	DANVILLE	24	10	59	1.21	5	98	2.00
	GROTON	26	12	52	1.71	16	106	3.49
	HARDWICK	39	14	26	0.86	7	86	2.83
	KIRBY	7	1	7	0.37	3	18	0.96
	LYNDON	8	13	29	0.96	8	58	1.92
	NEWARK	2	0	16	0.48	1	19	0.57
	PEACHAM	15	7	41	1.08	1	64	1.68
	RYEGATE	40	13	43	1.38	7	103	3.31
	SHEFFIELD	3	1	10	0.37	3	17	0.62
	ST JOHNSBURY	36	13	39	1.48	9	97	3.67
	STANNARD	4	0	4	0.39	2	10	0.98
	SUTTON	2	5	21	0.62	2	30	0.88
	WALDEN	10	7	14	0.43	2	33	1.02
	WATERFORD	35	18	69	2.22	10	132	4.24
	WHEELOCK	5	2	16	0.50	2	25	0.79
TOTAL CALEDONIA COUNTY		295	128	519	0.98	83	1,025	1.94

TABLE 2. 2003 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY SEASON, COUNTY AND TOWN

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Bucks/mi2	Muzzleloader	Deer Harvest	Deer/mi2
CHITTENDEN	BOLTON	6	1	20	0.52	1	28	0.73
	BUELLS GORE	0	0	2	0.47	0	2	0.47
	BURLINGTON	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
	CHARLOTTE	17	9	23	0.93	13	62	3.70
	COLCHESTER	34	4	40	1.62	13	91	2.75
	ESSEX	31	5	24	0.93	8	68	3.80
	HINESBURG	34	8	24	0.82	32	98	2.42
	HUNTINGTON	14	10	38	1.39	9	71	3.14
	JERICO	33	10	30	0.94	13	86	4.81
	MILTON	47	16	56	1.51	34	153	2.26
	RICHMOND	28	8	31	1.15	17	84	1.59
	SHELBURNE	32	0	6	0.36	5	43	0.65
	ST GEORGE	5	0	5	0.51	1	11	7.98
	S. BURLINGTON	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
	UNDERHILL	19	7	37	0.80	16	79	1.26
	WESTFORD	25	6	25	0.84	24	80	2.69
WINOOSKI	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	
WILLISTON	21	4	21	0.00	12	58	0.00	
TOTAL CHITTENDEN COUNTY		346	88	382	0.73	198	1,014	1.94
ESSEX	AVERILL	1	1	9	0.25	0	11	0.31
	AVERYS GORE	0	0	1	0.06	0	1	0.06
	BLOOMFIELD	8	0	13	0.33	3	24	0.60
	BRIGHTON	5	5	9	0.18	1	20	0.39
	BRUNSWICK	0	0	7	0.29	4	11	0.45
	CANAAN	7	5	21	0.66	5	38	1.20
	CONCORD	6	4	41	0.81	6	57	1.13
	EAST HAVEN	1	0	3	0.08	1	5	0.14
	FERDINAND	0	0	6	0.11	2	8	0.15
	GRANBY	0	0	7	0.18	0	7	0.18
	GUILDHALL	0	0	8	0.24	3	11	0.33
	LEMINGTON	1	1	6	0.17	0	8	0.23
	LEWIS	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
	LUNENBURG	21	6	19	0.42	6	52	1.16
	MAIDSTONE	0	0	7	0.53	1	8	0.90
	NORTON	7	3	16	0.42	1	27	0.71
	VICTORY	0	0	6	0.14	3	9	0.20
WARNER'S GRANT	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	
WARRENS GORE	0	0	1	0.09	0	1	0.09	
TOTAL ESSEX COUNTY		57	25	180	0.32	36	298	0.53
FRANKLIN	BAKERSFIELD	38	18	55	1.70	19	130	4.01
	BERKSHIRE	40	28	56	1.81	27	151	4.89
	ENOSBURG	47	19	51	1.31	13	130	3.35
	FAIRFAX	40	8	53	1.66	24	125	3.92
	FAIRFIELD	47	25	70	1.35	44	186	3.60
	FLETCHER	30	5	44	1.43	19	98	3.18
	FRANKLIN	70	23	97	3.38	53	243	8.47
	GEORGIA	36	9	46	1.72	19	110	4.12
	HIGHGATE	97	35	118	3.35	34	284	8.07
	MONTGOMERY	24	3	21	0.42	3	51	1.02
	RICHFORD	38	13	26	0.67	9	86	2.21
	SHELDON	23	19	33	1.16	11	86	3.02
	ST ALBANS	15	7	24	1.06	11	57	2.51
	SWANTON	24	15	45	1.34	18	102	3.03
TOTAL FRANKLIN COUNTY		569	227	739	1.46	304	1,839	3.64
GRAND ISLE	ALBURG	42	29	76	4.69	48	195	12.04
	GRAND ISLE	6	2	11	1.22	11	30	3.33
	ISLE LA MOTTE	13	4	16	3.72	9	42	9.77
	NORTH HERO	8	5	30	3.95	28	71	9.34
	SOUTH HERO	7	4	20	2.44	12	43	5.24
TOTAL GRAND ISLE COUNTY		76	44	153	3.38	108	381	8.41

TABLE 2. 2003 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY SEASON, COUNTY AND TOWN

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Bucks/mi2	Muzzleloader	Deer Harvest	Deer/mi2
LAMOILLE	BELVIDERE	4	1	10	0.32	0	15	0.49
	CAMBRIDGE	17	4	23	0.42	11	55	1.00
	EDEN	11	2	42	0.68	3	58	0.94
	ELMORE	7	3	16	0.43	2	28	0.76
	HYDE PARK	15	10	19	0.55	3	47	1.35
	JOHNSON	9	3	39	0.98	8	59	1.49
	MORRISTOWN	25	5	27	0.59	3	60	1.31
	STOWE	45	9	19	0.29	7	80	1.21
	WATERVILLE	8	3	20	1.27	4	35	2.22
WOLCOTT	22	7	24	0.65	3	56	1.51	
TOTAL LAMOILLE COUNTY		163	47	239	0.56	44	493	1.16
ORANGE	BRADFORD	28	13	40	1.64	15	96	3.93
	BRAINTREE	5	5	20	0.61	5	35	1.07
	BROOKFIELD	17	2	43	1.20	4	66	1.84
	CHELSEA	18	10	49	1.42	23	100	2.89
	CORINTH	13	5	36	0.83	10	64	1.47
	FAIRLEE	24	8	19	1.03	7	58	3.14
	NEWBURY	40	9	95	1.83	25	169	3.25
	ORANGE	16	8	35	0.98	6	65	1.82
	RANDOLPH	33	15	48	1.41	17	113	3.32
	STRAFFORD	9	7	37	0.94	13	66	1.68
	THETFORD	33	11	60	1.46	19	123	3.00
	TOPSHAM	4	4	50	1.18	3	61	1.44
	TUNBRIDGE	4	9	29	0.73	18	60	1.50
	VERSHIRE	3	4	29	0.88	7	43	1.30
	WASHINGTON	18	9	38	1.13	4	69	2.05
	WEST FAIRLEE	4	4	25	1.21	6	39	1.89
	WILLIAMSTOWN	59	17	46	1.33	15	137	3.95
TOTAL ORANGE COUNTY		328	140	699	1.17	197	1,364	2.29
ORLEANS	ALBANY	26	11	49	1.57	0	86	2.76
	BARTON	26	9	28	0.87	6	69	2.14
	BROWNINGTON	9	6	19	0.85	1	35	1.57
	CHARLESTON	13	12	17	0.50	3	45	1.32
	COVENTRY	14	8	12	0.59	0	34	1.67
	CRAFTSBURY	28	8	35	1.04	1	72	2.15
	DERBY	29	17	37	1.02	2	85	2.34
	GLOVER	5	5	20	0.62	4	34	1.06
	GREENSBORO	28	7	21	0.65	3	59	1.83
	HOLLAND	19	16	28	0.94	5	68	2.28
	IRASBURG	26	10	30	1.00	3	69	2.29
	JAY	5	2	12	0.39	3	22	0.72
	LOWELL	3	2	21	0.42	2	28	0.56
	MORGAN	22	12	18	0.65	3	55	1.99
	NEWPORT	32	13	32	1.39	3	80	3.46
	TROY	16	9	18	0.61	2	45	1.53
	WESTFIELD	2	0	3	0.08	0	5	0.14
WESTMORE	4	2	20	0.63	0	26	0.82	
TOTAL ORLEANS COUNTY		307	149	420	0.75	41	917	1.63
RUTLAND	BENSON	22	17	51	1.40	1	91	2.49
	BRANDON	8	5	36	1.11	10	59	1.83
	CASTLETON	26	13	47	1.51	10	96	3.09
	CHITTENDEN	17	2	23	0.33	1	43	0.62
	CLARENDON	40	13	42	0.96	9	104	1.54
	DANBY	8	5	35	0.94	16	64	1.72
	FAIR HAVEN	7	8	26	2.03	1	42	3.28
	HUBBARDTON	9	3	35	1.52	0	47	2.03
	IRA	10	3	19	0.97	9	41	2.10
	KILLINGTON	0	0	6	0.13	1	7	0.15
	MENDON	4	1	11	0.34	3	19	0.60
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS	10	9	18	0.95	7	44	2.33	

TABLE 2. 2003 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY SEASON, COUNTY AND TOWN

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Bucks/mi2	Muzzleloader	Deer Harvest	Deer/mi2
RUTLAND	MT HOLLY	15	5	32	0.76	7	59	1.39
	MT TABOR	0	2	9	0.22	1	12	0.30
	PAWLET	48	24	79	2.21	31	182	5.08
	PITTSFIELD	1	0	4	0.20	0	5	0.25
	PITTSFORD	26	14	46	1.29	7	93	2.61
	POULTNEY	19	18	69	2.00	14	120	3.48
	PROCTOR	3	1	8	1.60	9	21	4.20
	RUTLAND	28	8	16	1.42	3	55	4.87
	SHREWSBURY	24	8	33	0.69	5	70	1.46
	SUDBURY	11	4	22	1.19	6	43	2.32
	TINMOUTH	9	3	28	1.09	6	46	1.78
	WALLINGFORD	21	13	39	1.03	13	86	2.28
	WELLS	25	8	40	2.15	18	91	4.89
	WEST HAVEN	19	12	42	1.83	3	76	3.30
WEST RUTLAND	12	6	20	1.50	11	49	3.68	
TOTAL RUTLAND COUNTY		422	205	836	1.05	202	1,665	2.09
WASHINGTON								
	BARRE	57	20	43	2.47	11	131	7.53
	BERLIN	41	11	57	1.84	9	118	3.82
	CABOT	17	8	32	1.03	11	68	2.18
	CALAIS	26	7	49	1.36	16	98	2.72
	DUXBURY	15	4	18	0.42	5	42	0.98
	EAST MONTPELIER	54	13	49	1.88	17	133	5.10
	FAYSTON	10	7	27	0.82	1	45	1.37
	MARSHFIELD	16	11	30	0.77	9	66	1.69
	MIDDLESEX	15	4	30	0.80	11	60	1.60
	MONTPELIER	21	4	3	1.20	2	30	12.00
	MORETOWN	36	8	32	0.90	16	92	2.60
	NORTHFIELD	25	5	43	1.04	14	87	2.11
	PLAINFIELD	18	3	35	1.99	6	62	3.52
	ROXBURY	0	1	11	0.28	2	14	0.36
	WAITSFIELD	16	5	27	1.19	7	55	2.42
	WARREN	4	4	25	0.62	6	39	0.97
	WATERBURY	24	6	46	1.01	5	81	1.78
	WOODBURY	18	3	21	0.60	5	47	1.35
	WORCESTER	4	1	10	0.27	4	19	0.51
	TOTAL WASHINGTON COUNTY		417	125	588	0.97	157	1,287
WINDHAM								
	ATHENS	0	1	2	0.18	0	3	0.26
	BRATTLEBORO	26	2	24	0.90	16	68	2.56
	BROOKLINE	5	3	15	1.44	8	31	2.98
	DOVER	2	0	17	0.49	3	22	0.64
	DUMMERSTON	21	12	52	1.98	20	105	3.99
	GRAFTON	4	0	14	0.37	2	20	0.53
	GUILFORD	23	1	52	1.52	12	88	2.57
	HALIFAX	4	0	14	0.37	3	21	0.56
	JAMAICA	0	1	26	0.55	9	36	0.76
	LONDONDERRY	2	2	17	0.50	3	24	0.71
	MARLBORO	4	0	14	0.37	2	20	0.52
	NEWFANE	22	9	47	1.22	10	88	2.29
	PUTNEY	12	2	26	1.02	18	58	2.28
	ROCKINGHAM	12	6	38	1.07	19	75	2.12
	SOMERSET	1	0	5	0.18	0	6	0.22
	STRATTON	0	0	8	0.17	2	10	0.21
	TOWNSHEND	5	0	31	0.77	8	44	1.10
	VERNON	9	2	28	1.69	0	39	2.35
	WARDSBORO	1	0	11	0.40	0	12	0.44
	WESTMINSTER	5	3	26	0.66	8	42	1.07
	WHITINGHAM	0	1	0	0.00	0	1	0.03
	WILMINGTON	18	3	19	0.49	3	43	1.11
WINDHAM	1	0	9	0.36	0	10	0.40	
TOTAL WINDHAM COUNTY		177	48	495	0.67	146	866	1.18

TABLE 2. 2003 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY SEASON, COUNTY AND TOWN

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Bucks/mi2	Muzzleloader	Deer Harvest	Deer/mi2	
WINDSOR	ANDOVER	2	0	7	0.25	0	9	0.32	
	BALTIMORE	4	2	9	2.09	3	18	4.19	
	BARNARD	5	4	16	0.36	3	28	0.64	
	BETHEL	9	2	23	0.56	9	43	1.04	
	BRIDGEWATER	9	2	27	0.58	4	42	0.91	
	CAVENDISH	9	5	24	0.69	2	40	1.15	
	CHESTER	14	2	44	0.89	16	76	1.54	
	HARTFORD	31	19	57	1.63	29	136	3.90	
	HARTLAND	35	19	44	1.13	25	123	3.15	
	LUDLOW	9	7	21	0.73	1	38	1.31	
	NORWICH	32	9	47	1.23	22	110	2.87	
	PLYMOUTH	3	0	17	0.40	1	21	0.50	
	POMFRET	4	4	14	0.40	6	28	0.79	
	READING	3	2	20	0.53	3	28	0.75	
	ROCHESTER	2	2	14	0.26	2	20	0.37	
	ROYALTON	6	9	19	0.54	7	41	1.16	
	SHARON	11	5	27	0.76	6	49	1.39	
	SPRINGFIELD	51	9	57	1.46	29	146	3.73	
	STOCKBRIDGE	1	1	18	0.41	2	22	0.51	
	WEATHERSFIELD	25	8	57	1.58	15	105	2.91	
	WEST WINDSOR	17	9	19	0.88	10	55	2.55	
	WESTON	0	2	9	0.27	0	11	0.33	
	WINDSOR	11	4	19	1.21	12	46	2.93	
	WOODSTOCK	25	7	23	0.59	3	58	1.49	
	TOTAL WINDSOR COUNTY		318	133	632	0.74	210	1,293	1.51
		UNKNOWN TOWN	10	4	17	N/A	8	39	N/A
STATE TOTAL		3,911	1,575	6,928	0.88	2,114	14,528	1.85	

During the opening weekend of the Regular Rifle Season, November 15 -16, 2003, a total of 709 bucks were sampled at the biological stations located throughout the state. The table below details the age distribution and mean antler beam, antler points and dressed weight of the bucks sampled.

TABLE 3. 2003 AGE DISTRIBUTION AND MEAN ANTLER BEAM, ANTLER POINTS AND DRESSED WEIGHT OF REGULAR RIFLE SEASON BUCKS SAMPLED DURING OPENING WEEKEND

Age (years)	Number Sampled	Percent of Total Examined	Antler beam(mm)	Number of Points	Mean Weight
1.5	472	66	16.5	2.9	114.1
2.5	137	19	21.5	4.9	138.2
3.5	76	11	25.2	6.1	156.3
4.5	19	3	27.8	7.9	173.7
5.5	5	<1	29.6	8.0	157.8



TABLE 4. HUNTER HARVESTED BUCKS WEIGHING 200 POUNDS OR GREATER

Town of Kill	Weight	Antler Points	Season
BRADFORD	200	10	Muzzleloader
BURKE	200	8	Rifle
BROWNINGTON	200	8	Rifle
ELMORE	200	8	Rifle
ALBANY	200	7	Rifle
GUILDHALL	200	8	Rifle
HARDWICK	200	8	Rifle
CALAIS	200	8	Rifle
LONDONDERRY	200	8	Rifle
JOHNSON	200	8	Rifle
ARLINGTON	200	10	Rifle
PITTSFIELD	201	8	Rifle
BRIDGEWATER	201	7	Muzzleloader
MILTON	201	8	Rifle
MORGAN	201	11	Muzzleloader
FAYSTON	202	6	Rifle
CRAFTSBURY	203	8	Bow
ALBANY	203	8	Rifle
ALBURG	203	7	Rifle
CALAIS	203	8	Rifle
MAIDSTONE	203	10	Rifle
CANAAN	203	9	Rifle
CHARLOTTE	204	10	Rifle
NEWARK	*204	10	Rifle
GRANBY	204	10	Rifle
CHESTER	205	13	Muzzleloader
GRAFTON	205	9	Rifle
WALDEN	205	8	Rifle
BURKE	206	9	Rifle
DERBY	207	8	Rifle
BURKE	208	7	Rifle
BELVIDERE	*208	8	Rifle
BLOOMFIELD	208	10	Rifle
PITTSFIELD	208	9	Rifle
CONCORD	209	8	Rifle
DERBY	209	8	Youth
BRUNSWICK	*209	9	Rifle
BAKERSFIELD	209	9	Rifle
WOODSTOCK	210	10	Rifle
WINHALL	210	9	Rifle
WELLS	210	6	Rifle
WATERVILLE	210	2	Rifle
NORTON	210	6	Rifle
WAITSFIELD	210	13	Rifle
BENSON	210	8	Rifle
GRANVILLE	211	8	Rifle
GROTON	211	7	Rifle
PLYMOUTH	211	8	Rifle
SHELDON	211	8	Rifle
HIGHGATE	212	7	Youth
WARRENS GORE	212	6	Rifle
COLCHESTER	212	10	Rifle
SWANTON	212	7	Rifle

Bucks having heavy body weight are of interest to many hunters. Although large-bodied bucks are most often associated with areas of the state where hunting pressure is low, Table 4 indicates that large-bodied bucks also sometimes can be found in regions of the state where hunting pressure is relatively high.

TABLE 4. HUNTER HARVESTED BUCKS WEIGHING 200 POUNDS OR GREATER

Town of Kill	Weight	Antler Points	Season
CHARLESTON	213	11	Rifle
HIGHGATE	213	8	Rifle
NORTH HERO	213	8	Rifle
RYEGATE	214	8	Youth
GUILDHALL	215	10	Rifle
FERDINAND	215	6	Rifle
NORTH HERO	215	8	Rifle
BRAINTREE	216	8	Rifle
LOWELL	216	8	Rifle
FAYSTON	216	8	Rifle
JAY	216	8	Rifle
STOWE	217	6	Rifle
NEWARK	217	8	Rifle
CONCORD	217	7	Rifle
EDEN	218	10	Bow
DANVILLE	222	10	Rifle
BRUNSWICK	*223	8	Rifle
WATERFORD	224	8	Rifle
NEWARK	225	10	Rifle
LYNDON	227	8	Rifle
EDEN	*230	7	Rifle
MANCHESTER	230	8	Rifle
BRAINTREE	232	8	Rifle
BARTON	233	11	Rifle
DUXBURY	233	13	Rifle
CONCORD	236	7	Rifle
NORTON	238	10	Rifle
AVERILL	246	8	Rifle
ALBANY	248	8	Rifle



WHITE-TAILED DEER

TABLE 5. FREQUENCY OF 2003 ANTLERLESS PERMIT APPLICATION DISTRIBUTION

WMU	Permits Authorized	Landowner Applications	NonResident Applications	Resident Applications	Total Applications
A	630	35	18	499	517
B	1,607	399	38	3,779	4,216
F1	357	71	10	429	510
F2	787	108	14	1,204	1,326
H1	243	160	29	980	1,169
H2	55	89	26	218	333
J1	387	217	74	1,106	1,397
J2	670	262	238	1,637	2,137
K2	467	149	92	1,518	1,759
M2	337	57	63	581	701
N	933	59	148	1,556	1,763
O2	734	91	111	1,139	1,341
Q	263	51	72	520	643
TOTAL	7,485	1,748	933	15,166	17,847

Notable Weights of Vermont's Harvested Big Game Wildlife

This program keeps track of some of the largest black bear, white-tailed deer and moose taken by legal means in Vermont each year. All animals recorded must be completely field dressed. Wildlife listed here have been entered in to this program based on a submission by the hunter to the department.

Cleaned field dressed weight: All animals must be reported completely field dressed (all internal organs removed, including heart, liver and lungs). By completely field dressing your deer, bear or turkey immediately after tagging you insure the most rapid cooling of the body cavity and the least amount of coagulated blood, and thus the least amount of meat will be at risk of spoilage.

It is your responsibility as a sportsperson to properly care for your game and use it fully. If you take more meat than you and your family can consume within a year, you will easily find friends, relatives and/or local food shelves that will gladly accept your surplus meat. By properly dressing your game you will help to ensure that the meat you consume or give away will be of the finest possible quality.

Points: points are defined as 1 inch above the antler beam.

FIVE HEAVIEST REPORTED BLACK BEAR BY WEIGHT

Year	Weight (lbs.)	Town Harvested
1986	514	Lemington
1985	441	Jay
2001	383	Brookfield
1985	383	Irasburg
1995	363	Ferdinand

FIVE HEAVIEST REPORTED WHITE-TAILED DEER BY WEIGHT

Year	Weight (lbs.)	Points	Town Harvested
1989	269	8	Granby
1993	267	8	Alburg
1994	261	8	Bloomfield
1995	257	11	Averill
1995	255	8	Maidstone

FIVE HEAVIEST MOOSE BY WEIGHT

Year	Weight (lbs.)	Points	Town Harvested
1996	1040	19	Brighton
1997	946	20	Eden
1995	945	16	Ferdinand
1996	943	27	Granby
1997	941	16	Lowell

For more information please contact: Lucy Herring (802) 241-3117